

ISO 9000 sessions to give employees overview

The Human Resources Office and the ISO 9000 Project Office are gearing up to train employees on the interworkings of ISO 9000, beginning with a one-hour awareness seminar next month.

A special overview for managers is now available. Supervisors who missed the Sept. 9 and 10 overview seminars may attend one of two sessions set for 12:30-4:30 p.m. Oct. 7 or Oct. 10 in the Bldg. 30 auditorium. This overview will cover what ISO 9000 is, how ISO 9000 forms the foundation for a strong quality management system, how JSC is implementing ISO 9000 and JSC's timeline.

"It is important as we move forward with the center's ISO 9000 implementation that our management team have a good understanding of what ISO is and what we are trying to accomplish at JSC," said JSC Director George Abbey. "This seminar will provide you with that understanding and allow you to provide effective leadership to ISO activities in your organization."

A short one-hour awareness seminar will be offered to all employees on Oct. 7 and 9. These sessions will give an abbreviated version of the manager's course with further training to be available for individuals directly involved in the ISO 9000 process.

"These short seminars will help build awareness about what ISO is and the Center's implementation plan," said Glen Van Zandt of the Human Resource Development Branch. "In the weeks following, we'll be providing further training in areas such as auditing and documentation for those that need it."

The training courses follow on the heels of the establishment of the ISO 9000 Project Office. This office—headed by Director Charlie Harlan—brings a top-level focus to the center's effort to become certified to the ISO 9000 family of standards. The new office will be responsible for managing JSC's transition from the current NASA Quality Management System to the internationally recognized ISO 9000 standards, with third party certification expected in about one year.

Also this week, JSC's director named Lee Norbraten deputy director of the newly established ISO 9000 Project Office.

Questions about the seminars and the upcoming training sessions may be directed to Brent Fontenot at x36456 or Glen Van Zandt at x33069.

Seddon to support life sciences

By Eileen Hawley

Astronaut Rhea Seddon has been assigned to a part-time post at Vanderbilt University's Center for Space Physiology and Medicine in Nashville, Tenn., effective Sunday.

Seddon will act as a liaison assisting Vanderbilt researchers in evaluating flight equipment and developing experiment operating procedures for NASA's 1998 Neurolab mission. Neurolab will study the adaptation of the nervous system to microgravity during a 16-day flight aboard *Columbia*. Seddon is a three-time shuttle veteran, including two flights dedicated to life science investigations.

"Rhea's medical background and extensive experience gained during her two Spacelab Life Science missions make her uniquely qualified for this position," said David Leestma, director of Flight Crew Operations. "She will be representing the interests of JSC and the astronaut office in designing and developing protocols for this flight."

Fire prevention activities set

By Rindy Carmichael

Testing home fire detectors is this year's theme for fire prevention week set for Oct. 6-12.

The Health, Safety, and Environmental Compliance Office is sponsoring, "Let's Hear It For Fire Safety—Test Your Detectors," with several activities on site to heighten fire safety awareness among employees.

A coloring contest will be held for employees' children. The Houston Fire Department will judge the contest on Oct. 4 and award first, second and honorable mention ribbons. Winning entries will be posted in the Bldg. 1 lobby during Fire Prevention Week. All entries must be received by the HSEC office no later than Sept. 27.

In addition, the HFD will participate in a drawing to give away 10 smoke detectors. To qualify, contestants must complete a "Fire Safety Word Search" and mail it to Seemore Safety, Mail Code NA3 by the close of business Sept. 30. Winners will be notified Oct. 7.

The word search and coloring contest pages can be picked up at the information tables in Bldgs. 3 and 11 cafeterias, downloaded from the JSC Safety Home Page, or requested by calling x45078.

The National Fire Protection Association suggests buying only smoke detectors that carry the label of an independent testing laboratory. Several types of detectors are available, with some running on batteries and others on household current. Some detect smoke using an "ionization" sensor, others use a "photoelectric" detection system. All approved smoke detectors, regardless of type, will offer adequate protection provided they are installed and maintained properly. A smoke detector should be installed on or near the ceiling outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home, including the basement. For more information contact the Safety Communications Office at x45078.



WELL WISHES—From left, Dotty Johnson of Allied Signal Technical Services and Charlie Spencer of the Manned Space Training Division display a 4-by-8 poster signed by the public during JSC Open House. The poster will be presented to Astronaut Shannon Lucid upon her return from a record setting six-month stay on the Russian Mir Space Station.

AIAA hosts space opportunity program

The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics will host an International Cooperation in Space program beginning at 5:15 p.m. Sept. 26 at the Gilruth Center.

Professor Ernesto Vallerani will discuss the results of a workshop held on international cooperation and the new opportunities available. Topics include criteria for international cooperation, disaster mitigation, low cost access to space and space station utilization.

The workshop, held in May in Frascati, Italy, featured 60 experts from government, industry and academia from around the world and worked to determine political, managerial and the financial process of international cooperation.

Tickets cost \$10 for members and \$11 for nonmembers and include dinner. Reservations are due by noon Sept. 23. For more information contact Pam Sisk at x38341 or Danita Thomas at x32348.

Blaha ready for first on orbit crew exchange

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Russian partners, and both Lucid and Goldin took time Saturday to thank and congratulate the ground crews.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people who have been on the ground and have been working, supporting this flight because, from my viewpoint, I think this flight has gone absolutely wonderful," Lucid said. "We all know that a flight is not just done by the crew that's in orbit. It depends upon the support you get from the ground and I've had fantastic support. We have gained a lot of experience on how to deal with a long flight versus a short flight, which we have so much experience with, and I think we handle it very professionally."

"I'm overwhelmed by the level of professionalism and how people even under the most adverse conditions maintain a very level approach to their business," Goldin said. "And it's more than just the people in America. We have to thank our Russian colleagues; they're doing a terrific job. We're learning a lot from them, and they're learning from us. And I really appreciate your calling to everyone's attention that it's more than a person, it's teamwork. It's all the NASA people, our contractors, our employees and it's the Russians and the great Russian program."

Only the second American astronaut to fly a long duration mission aboard the Russian space station, Lucid already is benefiting from the improvements made after her predecessor's flight, especially in the area of communication.

"I think that the people down in the control center have done a really great job in trying to make sure I had routine communication with my family," Lucid said.

Lucid's recommendations for how to improve future long-duration space flights and, ultimately, International Space Station flights, related to the type of work done on such missions since current science experiments are designed for shorter duration missions.

"Previously on shuttle flights, we've said that crew time is very valuable, and it is, so you need to design the experiments so they don't involve a lot of crew time. But I think that is the wrong approach to take for a long-duration space flight," she said. "I think the thing that a crew person really enjoys is working with the scientific experiments, and they really enjoy being able to interact with the PIs (principle investigators). I think that as long as we design the experiment so the crew person can make valid observations and help the principle investigator make interpretations, it makes the crew person feel like they're part of the investigative team, and I think that's very important for long duration space flight."

Goldin informed Lucid that work is under way to create a two-way video system for the International Space Station which will allow for greater communication between the station and the ground to better achieve this goal.

Lucid's flight aboard Mir will end

next week when STS-79 arrives with her replacement—Astronaut John Blaha—on Wednesday. During the Terminal Countdown Demonstration Test, Blaha said he was excited to be a part of a mission that will be the first to conduct a crew exchange on orbit.

"I think what we are about to do here is pretty exciting. We are really into the space station era right now and I personally think that is fantastic," Blaha said. "A crew exchange in orbit, when you think about it, is incredible, and this is the first crew that is going to do that. I think everybody in our country also is proud because this space program continues to move forward and discover new ground."

STS-79 also will bring with it a new supply of nitrogen unexpectedly needed aboard Mir, indicating the growing maturity of the joint U.S., Russian partnership by once again demonstrating its ability to improvise, collaborate and react quickly to handle space station issues.

Emergency info sources available

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occupants around Clear Lake.

"Severe gridlock may await those who delay too long to evacuate," McQuary said. Employees living in the Clear Lake area should be prepared to evacuate when local officials announce their recommendation to do so. If area residents wait until after Galveston Island starts evacuating, it could be too late.

"So don't wait to evacuate," McQuary said. "Gas up the car, gather necessary supplies to sustain your family after you return, and leave early. Local municipalities and the Red Cross do not open local shelters before a major hurricane, so don't depend on them."

A list of helpful local telephone numbers is included in this edition of the Space News Roundup for employees to keep. McQuary also recommends employees monitor local news stations for current weather and traffic conditions.

Employee information also is available through radio bulletins, commercial television and the Office of Public Affairs Employee Information Service at x36765 and JSC Emergency Information Line at x33351. Employees with Internet access can check Houston traffic conditions at <http://traffic.tamu.edu/traffic.html>. Hurricane awareness and emergency information also will be available through the JSC Home Page in the near future.

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